

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 OMB-01 ACDA-05 EB-07 AID-05 TRSE-00

NIC-01 /096 W

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R 210811Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4254

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR, CB

SUBJECT: PRC MEDIA CRITICIZES SOVIETS' CAMBODIA POLICY

REF: MOSCOW 3039

1. IN AN APPARENT BID TO UNDERCUT THE SOVIET POSITION WITH THE GRUNK, NCNA MARCH 20 CARRIED A MARCH 19 PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE CONDEMNING THE SOVIETS FOR BACKING THE LON NOL REGIME. THE ARTICLE POINTS TO RECENT PRAVDA AND IZVESTIA ARTICLES CLAIMING CONTINUING SOVIET SUPPORT OF GRUNK (REFTEL), WHICH ARE DISMISSED AS "LIES CANNOT COVER UP FACTS" AND THEN SETS THE RECORD STRAIGHT, APPARENTLY TO REMIND SIHANOUK, KHIEU SAMPHAN AND THE REST OF THE WORLD WHO THEIR REAL FRIENDS

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HAVE BEEN.

2. DOCUMENTING THE SOVIET RECORD SINCE THE 1970 ANTI-SIHANOUK COUP, THE ARTICLE GAVE SIX SPECIFIC EXAMPLES:

A) MAY 14, 1970 TASS STATEMENT THAT GUNK WAS A "GOVERNMENT IN EXILE."

B) JAN 29, 1971 "BLUNT" WITHDRAWAL OF RECOGNITION WHEN RADIO MOSCOW IDENTIFIED PRINCE SIHANOUK AS "FORMER HEAD OF STATE OF CAMBODIA," AND JAN 12, 1972 "LITERARY GAZETTE" "VICIOUS PERSONAL ATTACK" ON SIHANOUK.

C) OCT 1972 SOVIET VOTE AT 17TH UNESCO SESSION TO SEAT LON NOL DELEGATE

D) MARCH 23, 1973 PRAVDA DESCRIPTION OF THE "PEOPLE'S PATRIOTIC WAR" AS A "WAR OF FRATRICIDE," "DELIBERATELY ABSOLVING THE LON NOL CLIQUE FROM ITS CRIME."

E) MAY AND AUGUST 1973 PRAVDA "DUET WITH US IMPERIALISM, CALLING FOR A 'PEACEFUL SOLUTION' OF THE CAMBODIAN QUESTION."

F) CONTINUATION OF SOVIET MILITARY AND OTHER AID AFTER THE COUP, AND MAINTENANCE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS "UP TO NOW" WITH LON NOL.

THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY ACCUSING THE SOVIETS OF ATTEMPTING TO PAVE THE WAY FOR FUTURE MEDDLING IN CAMBODIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

3. COMMENT: THE CHINESE PROBABLY GAUGE THEIR POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE CAMBODIAN INSURGENTS TO BE CONSIDERABLY STRONGER THAN THAT OF THE SOVIETS, AND WISH TO ENSURE THAT SOVIET ATTEMPTS TO JUMP ON THE KHMER ROUGE BANDWAGON AT A FAIRLY LATE DATE DO NOT GO UNCHALLENGED.

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